

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APP. NO. 09/972,959

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Each of these claims has been allowed, but the Examiner has raised certain objections to the drawings and to the claims.

With respect to the drawings, the Examiner requires that Figs. 1A and 1B be labeled by a legend such as --Prior Art--. By this Amendment, Figs. 1A and 1B are labeled "Prior Art".

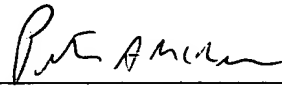
The Examiner has objected to claims 1-3, 6, 8, 13, 18, 20 and 24 as allegedly containing informalities. Applicant submits that the amended claims are formally correct, and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objections to the claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: September 12, 2005

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheet include the following changes:

In Figs. 1A and 1B, the “Prior Art” label is added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet